4/17/59
AF:AFS:RTennemeyer:mlc
(Drafting Office and Officer)

(29) M-804

DECLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

845j.2614/4-1059

R

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: April 10, 1959

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY RS DATE 14 MAY 1982
BDS☐ or XDS☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE: TERMINAL MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

SUBJECT: Volta River Project

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Daniel A. Chapman, Ambassador of Ghana
Mr. J.C. Satterthwaite, Assistant Secretary,
Mr. George Dolgin, AF
Mr. Eugene Padberg, AFS
Robert T. Hennemeyer, AFS
* Major Seth Anthony, Counselor, Ghana Embassy

COPIES TO: IRC - 8
AF - 2 (2cc)
AFS - 4 (1cc)
AF - Mr. Dolgin - 1
AF/PRO - Mr. Reeves - 1
AmEmbassy, ACCRA - 1
E - 1
W - 1
BNA - 1
ICA - 1
OCB - 1
S/S - 2
Department of Commerce - 1

(25)

This Document must be Returned to the RM/R Central Files

845J.2614/4-1059

Ambassador Chapman said that he had requested this appointment in order to bring himself up to date regarding the current status of the Volta River Project.

He referred to the letter from Prime Minister Nkrumah to Ambassador Flake requesting the assistance of the United States Government in connection with the project and asked what the United States Government was undertaking in this regard. Mr. Satterthwaite confirmed that Ambassador Flake had received such a letter and that this request had developed from the recent meeting in Accra between the Prime Minister and Edgar Kaiser. Mr. Padberg said that Mr. Chad Calhoun, Vice President of Kaiser Engineering Company, was presently in Ghana for meetings with Sir Robert Jackson and that upon Mr. Calhoun's return, the Department would be in a better position to determine how the request of the Ghanaian Government might best be met. Mr. Dolgin said that the United States Government had already undertaken to acquaint the American business community with the recently-completed Kaiser survey of the Volta project. He informed the Ambassador that the Department of Commerce would publish a summary of the survey report in the Foreign Commerce Weekly on April 17. Mr. Dolgin pointed out that the Foreign Commerce Weekly would receive wide distribution throughout the Department of Commerce field offices. Mr. Dolgin said that the United States Government did not have sufficient information on which realistic consideration of the question of financing the Volta

DECLASSIFIED

FILED
MAY 11 1959

UNCLASSIFIED

none

Note Panel in RM/R - destroyed

the Volta Project could be based, We hoped, Mr. Dolgin continued, to be able to give consideration to this problem when we knew the outcome of Mr. Calhoun's meetings in Accra and the results of the Kaiser Company's discussions with other aluminum manufacturers. Mr. Satterthwaite said that for the reason mentioned by Mr. Dolgin, the United States Government is not yet in a position to reach a decision on possible United States assistance in connection with the Volta Project. Mr. Satterthwaite pointed out that the United States Government preferred that private industry take the initiative in this project and undertake the bulk of the financing. Mr. Padberg reminded the Ambassador that the primary purpose of publicizing the survey result in the Foreign Commerce Weekly was to interest potential end-users of the power to be generated by the Volta River dam. The question of financing, Mr. Padberg continued, could not be considered until the necessary information was available.

DECLASSIFIED